Roxbury, Feb. 5, 1878.

My Dear Wendell:

I suppose Ellie and Agnes arrived safely at New York last evening, and that you have already had the pleasure of seeing them. I have thought that, for some time past, Ellie has not been looking quite like herself, though she never makes any complaint, or scarcely ever refers to any personal ailment; but she has had for a good while something like a hacking cough, more bronchial than on the lungs, which certainly does not improve, but which, I trust, will be very much lessened, if not wholly removed, by her visit, with its atmospheric change. As it is Agnes's first visit to New York, she cannot fail to be greatly interested in the various sights presented by the great city; and especially will she be glad to see all her little cousins, and they as glad to see her.

I am obliged to you for sending me the various clippings enclosed in your letter, scurrilously denunciatory of me and my letter to W. E. Chandler; and if you have any more, I should like to obtain them all. You fear that, being so abusive, they will shut my eyes to "the grain of truth in them" (a grain which I have not been able to discover with my eyes wide open), and that they will but confirm me in my views of the Southern policy of President Hayes. I really thought you knew enough of your father to know that, in forming and expressing my opinions on any subject, or with reference to any persons, I have never been influenced by the praises of the good or the anathemas of the bad, but have been faithful to my own understanding and conscience, to my highest convictions of duty, however mistaken as to the question at issue, or unfortunate as to the manner of treating it. But I am certainly none the less convinced

that I am in the right, and that my testimony is potential, when, as the only method of refuting me, the pre-eminently vile and unprincipled combine to pour their vials of filth and fury upon my naked head. "Woe unto you," said Jesus admonishingly to his disciples, "when all men shall speak well of you;" but I find no caution from his lips to them to be on their guard when they were basely defamed. On the contrary, he comforted them by saying, "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall call them of his household?" And again: "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake: rejoice, and be exceeding glad." When I shall so advocate the cause of peace as to secure the approval of men of violence and blood; or the cause of temperance as to give no disturbance to wine-bibbers and drunkard-makers; or the cause of purity as not to elicit

the sneers of the licentious; or the cause of liberty as not to excite the wrathful malignity of the tyrannical and bloody-minded; I may indeed be justified in drawing the conclusion that I am as one beating the air, or foolishly attempting to draw out leviathan with a hook. But so long as all these classes, confronting me on the various issues specified, are in open and bitter hostility to me, I cannot but accept them as the best witnesses to the rectitude of my course.

You attempt to make my cause identical with that of Mr. Phillips I shall leave without comment. When you speak of "the restoration of the South to self-government — i.e., government as it is in Massachusetts" — you confound all distinctions, and utterly reverse the truth of history. And when you profess to find "a certain resemblance" between my state of mind and that of the editor of the Petersburg Index-Appeal, who thinks the gallows ought to be my doom, I can only ask, with parental solicitude, whether my son is in his right senses.

Your loving Father.